

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 1-24 and 26-31 are allowable. Withdrawn claims 32-24 have been canceled.

Applicant amended the claims to replace means-plus-function language throughout, without narrowing the scope of the amended claims. The present amendment should not affect the allowability of claims 1-24 and 26-31.

Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's basis for the double patenting rejection, and in particular Applicant disagrees with the statements that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the narrower claim of introducing radiation axially would encompass the broader claim of introducing radiation. While Applicant disagrees with the double patenting rejection, in the interest of forwarding this case to early allowance, a terminal disclaimer is submitted herewith without conceding to the basis for such rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of all the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited. In the interest of forwarding the case to allowance without unnecessary delays, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.

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Respectfully submitted,

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